

1997 Flash Flood / River Flood Related Fatalities

Flooding again ranked as the #1 cause of weather-related deaths with 118. The 30-year average is 140 fatalities. Of the 118 flood-related deaths, 46 were vehicle-related and 45 were in the water. Flood-related fatalities are probably the most preventable. Most vehicular fatalities occur when people attempt to drive across flooded roadways. Of the deaths classified as being "in water," many of the victims were originally in vehicles when they stalled in high water, left the vehicle, and were overcome by the swift currents. Other victims were trapped in drainage pipes while attempting to clear debris or drowned while playing near swollen creeks. One man was riding on a rubber tube on a flooded river when he was swept under a concrete bridge and trapped underneath. A group of tourists in Arizona were drowned while hiking in a narrow canyon. A severe thunderstorm 3 to 5 miles upstream produced very heavy rain causing a 20-foot wall of water to flow into the canyon. The canyon ranges from 30 feet deep and 20 feet wide to 200 feet deep and only 2 feet wide. The 11 who died and a tour guide were warned not to enter the canyon because of an approaching thunderstorm. The tour guide alone survived after being swept several miles downstream. Three states suffered high flood death tolls—Texas, 21; Arizona, 20; and Kentucky, 16. Most of the fatalities ranged from ages 10 to 59 and 58% were males. Of those who died, 86 perished from flash floods; 32 from river floods.

1997 FLASH FLOOD / RIVER FLOOD FATALITIES BY STATE AND LOCATION

<u>STATE</u>	<u>BO</u>	<u>BU</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>IW</u>	<u>MH</u>	<u>OT</u>	<u>PH</u>	<u>VE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
AR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
AZ	0	0	0	19	0	1	0	0	20
CA	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	5	8
CO	0	0	0	3	4	1	0	1	9
FL	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
IA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
IL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
IN	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
KY	0	0	0	8	3	0	1	4	16
LA	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
MO	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	5
NC	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
ND	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
NM	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
NV	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	3
OH	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	5
OK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
PA	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
PR	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
TN	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	4
TX	2	0	0	4	0	2	0	13	21
UT	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
WV	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	5
TOTAL	2	0	3	45	7	10	5	46	118
PERCENT	2	0	3	38	6	8	4	39	100

1997 FLASH FLOOD / RIVER FLOOD FATALITIES BY AGE AND GENDER

	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>UNKNOWN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
0 TO 9	4	3	0	7	6
10 TO 19	9	12	0	21	18
20 TO 29	4	13	0	17	14
30 TO 39	11	9	0	20	17
40 TO 49	6	8	0	14	12
50 TO 59	9	8	0	17	14
60 TO 69	3	7	0	10	8
70 TO 79	2	4	0	6	5
80 TO 89	2	4	0	6	5
90 TO --	0	0	0	0	0
UNKNOWN	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	50	68	0	118	99*
PERCENT	42	58	0	100	

(* Due to rounding total does not equal 100%)

LEGEND

BO - Boat
BU - Business
CA - Camping
IW - In Water
MH - Mobile Home
OT - Other/Unknown
PH - Permanent Home
VE - Vehicle

1997 Flash Flood / River Flood Related Fatalities (Continued)

1997 FLASH FLOOD / RIVER FLOOD FATALITIES BY STATE

<u>STATE</u>	<u>FLASH FLOOD</u>	<u>RIVER FLOOD</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
AR	1	0	1
AZ	20	0	20
CA	6	2	8
CO	6	3	9
FL	2	0	2
IA	1	0	1
IL	0	1	1
IN	1	0	1
KY	7	9	16
LA	1	0	1
MO	4	1	5
NC	3	0	3
ND	0	2	2
NM	2	0	2
NV	1	2	3
OH	4	1	5
OK	0	2	2
PA	3	0	3
PR	1	0	1
TN	1	3	4
TX	19	2	21
UT	1	0	1
WA	0	1	1
WV	2	3	5
TOTAL	86	32	118
PERCENT	73	27	100

1997 FLASH FLOOD / RIVER FLOOD FATALITIES BY GENDER

	<u>FLASH FLOOD</u>	<u>RIVER FLOOD</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
FEMALE	38	12	50	42
MALE	48	20	68	58
UNKNOWN	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	86	32	118	
PERCENT	73	27	100	